

REMARKS

Claims 2-45 are pending in the application.

Claims 2-45 stand rejected.

Claims 2, 17-18, 20-21, 23-24, 26, 40 and 43 have been amended.

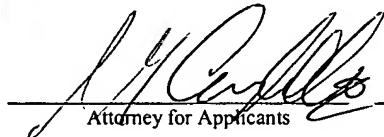
Amendments to Claims

Appreciation is expressed for the indicated allowability of claims 2-45. The Examiner has noted, however, several points at which the claims need amendments due to various informalities. Pursuant to the Examiner's request, those claims so indicated have been amended to put them in condition for allowance. Moreover, the claims have been proofed generally, and so certain ones thereof, as indicated above in the listing of claims above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5084.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 5, 2006.



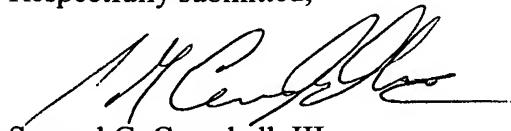
Attorney for Applicants



9/5/06

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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